

CFHT Technical Commissioning and Science Verification Policy and Procedures

Observing Policies

Important elements of the on-sky testing of new CFHT instrumentation include Technical Commissioning (TC) and Science Verification (SV) observations. TC includes the initial science calibration and characterization of the instrument. SV is intended to showcase the science capabilities and enable the community to gauge performance. SV observations may also be conducted in the case of a major instrument upgrade.

SV Observations are scheduled after commissioning has advanced to the point where the instrument is sufficiently well characterized to permit science driven observations. Thus, SV usually happens near or after the end of the TC phase, and always before the instrument is released for regular science operations. At the end of the scheduled SV runs the Instrument Scientist submits to the Executive Director a summary of TC and SV observations. If the summary results are judged inadequate to release the instrument for general use, the Executive Director may request further observations. All SV Observations are conducted in the QSO mode.

Data Policies

- The TC plan is developed by the Instrument Scientist and the Instrument Engineer.
- The SV plan is developed by the instrument's science team and may involve experts external to the instrument team. This plan should be advertised on CFHT's website in advance.
- The SV plan must not include any targets that cannot be released publicly because they are in approved forthcoming science programs.
- If targets in approved forthcoming science programs are the most suitable targets for activities during TC, these can be used for the required activities and could be exempted from public release with the agreement of the PI and the Executive Director.
- All TC data not exempted from public release as above will be released (raw immediately and processed when available) to the public through CFHT's archive.
- Raw SV data will be immediately released to the public through CFHT's archive.
- The instrument science team will release to the public reduced SV data through CFHT's archive as soon as possible and no later than the first call for proposal when the instrument is offered in non-shared risk mode.